

Arizona Law Has Sparked Renewed Optimism and Action Towards

Serious, Federal Immigration Reform

June 29, 2010

Media Contact: Douglas Rivlin (202) 225-8203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) – *Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL-4), Chairman of Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), was among the more than 20 Members of the CHC to meet with President Obama today at the White House. Rep. Gutierrez is the chief proponent of comprehensive immigration reform in the House and helped write the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR-ASAP/H.R. 4321). The bill is sponsored by Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and co-sponsored primarily by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Progressive Caucus, and Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The following is a statement from Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez:*

The President was very clear that he will work with us to frame the immigration issue for the American people in a new and aggressive way and he will start with his speech on Thursday. The Republicans in Arizona are playing politics with immigrants and the constitution and it is a

civil rights crisis, but more importantly, the Democrats have the solution teed up and ready to go.

Our country needs a legal immigration system that works, an end to illegal immigration, a secure border, and rules that employers, immigrants and everyone else will follow. That can only be achieved through comprehensive immigration reform and over 100 co-sponsors have signed on to my bill, CIR ASAP or H.R. 4321. There is no good reason why we cannot have comprehensive immigration reform this year if a handful of Republicans put solving problems ahead of playing politics. The votes are there if just a few Republicans step up to the plate.

In the mean time, we have Republican elected leaders calling every single immigrant who is in the country illegally an agent of the drug cartels, which reveals a lot about how the Republican Party feels about Hispanics. We have every reason to believe the Attorney General and the President are serious about fighting the Arizona law in the courts because it does so much to undermine law enforcement and the constitutional. More importantly, we are encouraged that the President is taking a stand against the type of rhetoric we have seen recently out of Arizona.

###